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The Redskin

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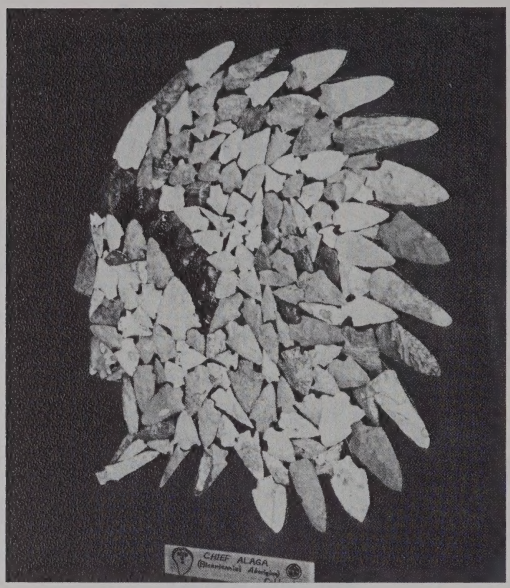

Figure 32
CHIEF ALAGA
(Bicentennial Aborigina)
By
LTC F. B. LYERLA — Columbus, Kansas

Join the membership drive. Five new $6.00 members and you get a free membership. Those reporting for 1977:

John Baldwin, Angola, Indiana 12
Gray LaDassor, St. Louis, Missouri 9

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ONE HALF PLUS ONE HALF EQUALS?

Dale Guy — Pinckneyville, Ill.

Two score and some years ago our father, and my brother and I wheeled ourselves out to one of the larger Indian campsites on the Jackson-Perry county border. At that early time that campsite was very familiar to our local competitors, and no square centimeter of its surface even by that time had escaped the treads of a collector's foot.

On that particular day, I was either lucky or unlucky enough to wrench from that soil one half of a beautiful chocolate brown, ferruginous, banded-slate bannerstone. This heart-breaker has been on deposit in our "shucks! box" throughout the years, and I have ever since searched that field, with an eye, fine tuned, toward the other one half of this specimen.

That campsite to this day has surrendered a wheelbarrow load and one half of axes, celts, discoidals, spades, skinners, Hopewell arrowheads, assorted these and those, and other doodads; but to the best of my knowledge, not the other one half of my bannerstone.

Well, this past summer (our father has long since expired) my brother and I were scouring another campsite some two crow-miles from the aforementioned area — a less known and less accessible field — but also a hot spot. (My brother had retrieved one half of a fine bannerstone from it only a short time before.) And, on this particular day, lo and behold, my eyes did espy (you guessed it) the other one half of my bannerstone — or so I thought. After steadying myself, and after regrouping my marbles, I came to realize that this could not be the other half, since the drilling in the earlier member was quite rough, and the drilling in this one half was very smooth. Ah! Halves of twins. (Figure 33)

And upon a side by side comparison they do indeed seem to be Gemini, for they are the same type (triangular), they are the same half-size (1″ x 1″ x 2½″); they are of exactly identical material (as to color, banding, and texture), and I am convinced they are indeed bedfellows (fashioned from the same stone). Alas, two more one halves to find — a pity evoking assignment for an eye-weary man, age fifty-nine with campsite calloused feet.

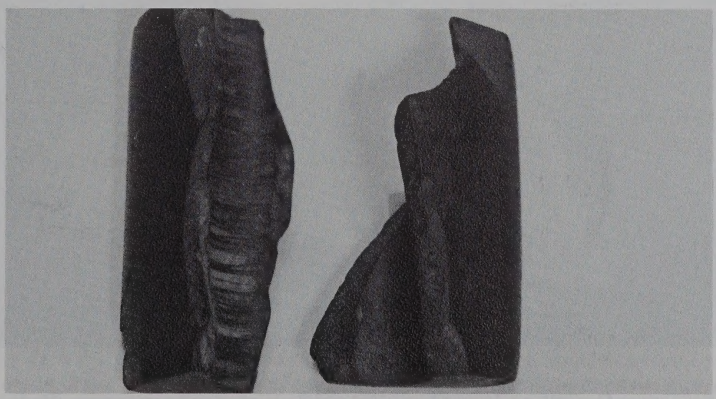

Figure 33

Two bannerstone halves described in article at the top of this page.

Guy Brothers Collection, Pinckneyville, Illinois

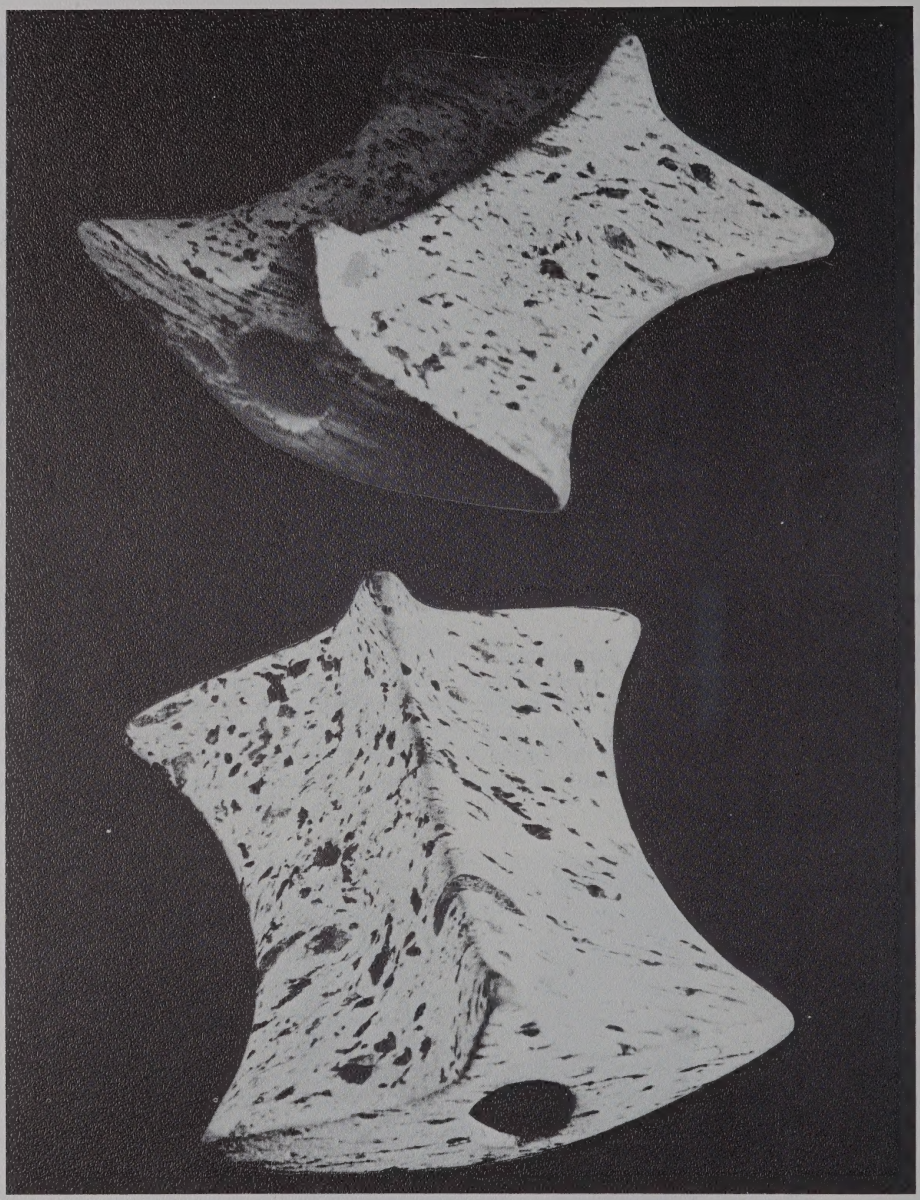

Figure 34

An exceptionally well-made and beautiful saddle-back type bannerstone. Made of black and white mottled granite. measures 3¼ inches. Found in Crawford County, Indiana. EX Geheringer, LaDassor, Cheney, Knoblock and Dr. Young Collections.

Clemens Caldwell Collection, Danville, Kentucky

Figure 35

The Reid duck effigy pipe. This Woodland period crested duck effigy pipe was brought to the surface by cultivation in 1974. Mr. James Reid retrieved the pipe as a surface find in a field near Hustonville in Lincoln County, Kentucky.

Crafted of dark green steatite, this 8¼ x 3 inch smoking instrument is one of the rare examples of the so-called Great Pipes of the 700 to 1200 A.D. time slot that has been recovered in the past thirty years.

Gordon Hart Collection, Bluffton, Indiana

Figure 36

Three very fine banded slate birdstones.
Top: Found in Huron County, Ohio. Ex L. C. Snyder Collection.
Center: Found in Preble County, Ohio. Ex H. C. Wachtel Collection.
Bottom: County unknown. Thought to be Michigan or Wisconsin.

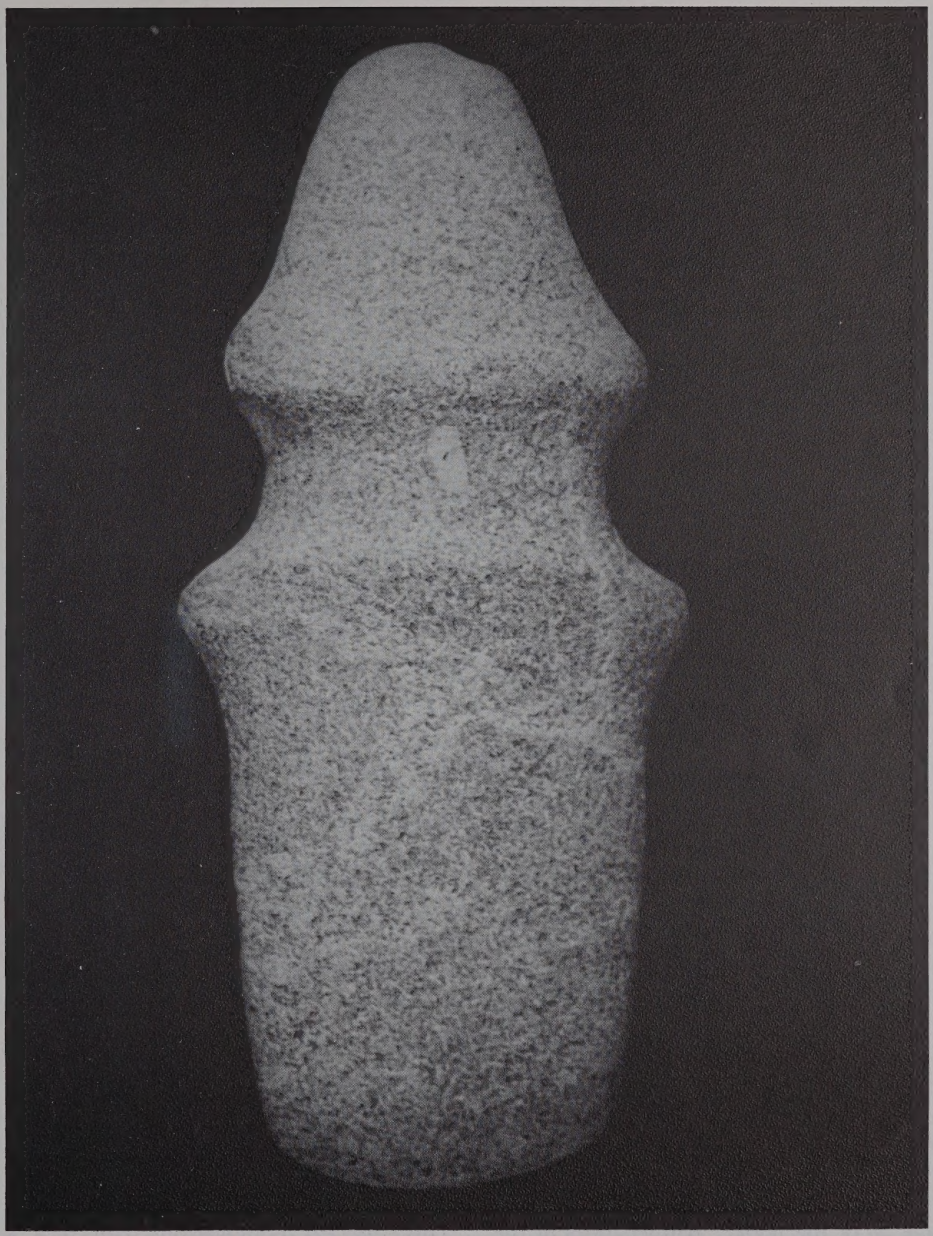

Figure 37

This is one of the largest genuine Michigan Barbed type axes known. Measures 10½ inches long. Made of a tan colored granite. Found in Michigan.

Figure 38

A Spiro Mound Thunderbird effigy ear spool taken from the Temple Mound, LeFlore County, Oklahoma in 1935. See bottom of this page for details.

Gordon Hart Collection, Bluffton, Indiana

SPIRO MOUND EFFIGY EAR SPOOL

Gordon Hart — Bluffton, Indiana

The above Thunderbird Effigy Ear Spool (Fig. 38) was removed from the "Great Temple Mound" of the Spiro group; later named the "Craig Mound" by the University of Oklahoma. Mr. John O. Hobbs, in the spring of 1935, began a destructive excavation of the mound, which produced a wealth of extremely fine artifacts of the Spiro culture. Mr. Hobbs was not knowledgeable of archaeological methods, either in excavation or the preserving of records and material for future study, thus much scientific learning was lost for posterity.

This thunderbird effigy was featured on page 58 of the book, "Bannerstones of the North American Indian," authored by Byron W. Knoblock in 1935. Beneath a retouched photograph of the ear spool the following information is given:

> "Earspool, taken from the Temple Mound in Leflore County, Oklahoma during the fall of 1935. The Thunderbird symbol encised on this superb object is portrayed in the finest manner, and is the only specimen of its kind so far observed. Material: gray, sandy shale.
>
> FROM E. K. PETRIE COLLECTION, BURLINGTON, WISCONSIN"

The mate to this ear spool was not found until 1937 and eventually was purchased and placed in the Gilcrease Institute at Tulsa, Oklahoma.

This effigy ear spool was purchased by E. K. Petrie from the digger, Mr. Hobbs, and remained in his possession until his Spiro material was purchased by Gordon Hart of Bluffton, Indiana in 1969.

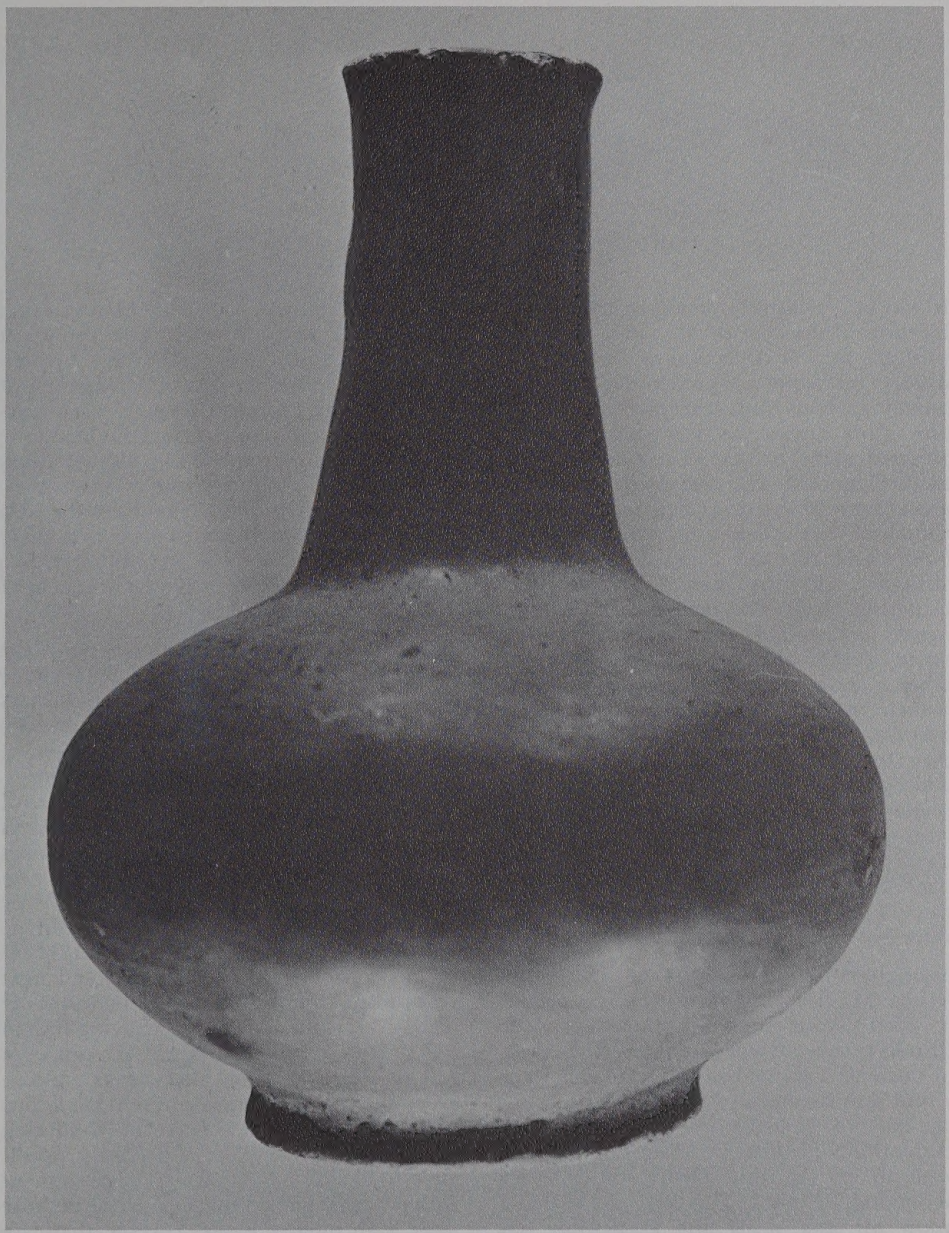

Figure 39

A fine pottery water bottle, painted Nodena Red. Has excellent color preservation. 8 inches tall. Found in Arkansas. Ex Dr. Bunch, Wachtel and Bravard Collections.

BIRD TALK

(Satire) by John Baldwin — Angola, Indiana

It was at a relatively young age that I was lightning struck with the idea that one couldn't have a collection of Indian relics unless a birdstone was present. I didn't know anything about birds, except, I had to own one. This disease, as I often call it, has afflicted many people. The symptoms are easily diagnosed. The victim can be observed attending relic meetings, sales and auctions, trunks of cars at auctions, other collectors homes and, of course, antique shops. The affliction hits the mental attitude with blistering force. The infected usually read everything available about relics. They think about, dream about, save money for and scheme about the next artifact to be added to their collection. This is all justified to their friends and loved ones by explaining that they are filling a personal natural human desire and don't forget these relics are a good investment! I keep my rocks locked away with my deeds to one square inch of land in Texas, an acre of land on the moon and the paper I had drawn up giving me sole ownership of 100% of the oil rights in my back yard. My wife really loves that one!

Enough rambling, now let's get back to birdstones. My first one, of course, was a fake. It wasn't your standard Guffie or 1950 Illinois version. It was just a rock with a hole in one end. I wanted so badly for this to be a bird that I concocted the story that it was one-half of a bust type specimen. This evaluation, of course, was done honestly and with all my knowing ability and expertise about Indian relics. The best part is that I know all that study and knowledge has finally paid off. Just a few short months ago I purchased a bird that has to be the finest in the world, Figure (40). This quality is recognized solely by me, of course. My fellow collectors claim they have the best; but that is not the important factor. The important thing is, and this is very important, I paid a tremendous price for this bird! An amount so high that I probably could have purchased an entire collection had this birdstone not been so important to me. My wife likes the idea that, "this was one of my contributions to society." She also likes the idea that the bird is safely nested away in a safety deposit box and she has the only key. She does not have the disease, but I will give her a definite eye for business.

An acquaintance of mine showed me a fake birdstone he had recently purchased for $185 at auction. He told me how lucky he was to get this bird (that he knew was authentic) so cheaply. He asked me what I thought of the bird and I said, "It's very interesting — very interesting indeed." What a wonderful thing lack of knowledge is. I long for the days when I could have owned the finest fakes in the world for a few dollars. This new owner of the fine fake surely doesn't have the disease as badly as I. But then his medicine doesn't cost as much either. He probably is on his way toward being cured and next year at this time will be collecting old toilet seats. That is the answer, stop buying Indian relics. I know this can work! It's our own best cure. Recognizing collecting as a disease everyone will loose interest in relics and thus be cured. Now, while you are all wondering what to do with your collections, you'll have to excuse me. I have an appointment with my local banker to take out one of those large high interest loans. You see, there are a couple of auctions coming up with birdstones in them. Boy, my wife is really going to be pleased. I'll be contributing to society again.

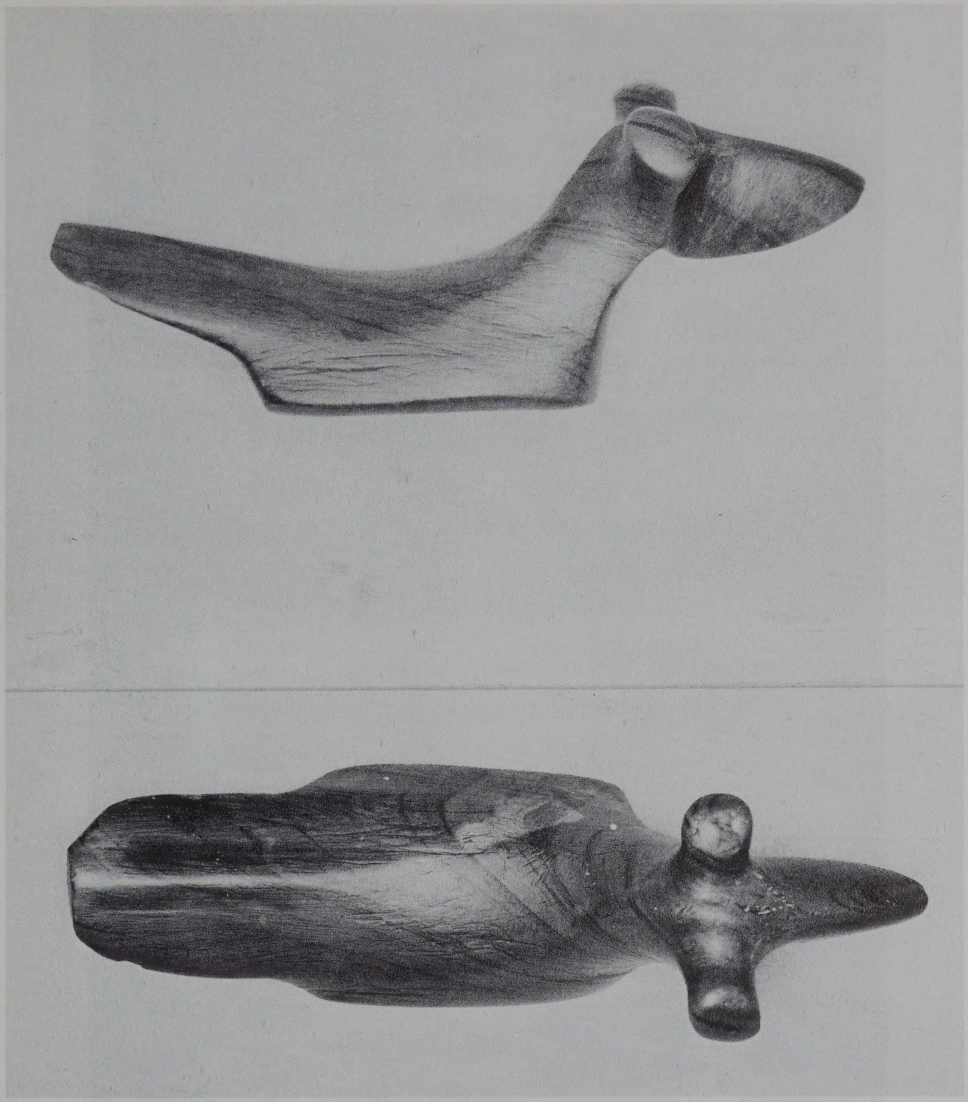

Figure 40

Several bizarre trades involving the acquisition of a large pile of contact Indian items and antique guns, resulted in the trade that nested this birdstone in my collection. It took 6 months of dealing in early 1976 before I acquired it away from its owner. Prior to that time it had made a trip to the west coast and back. Thanks to the good memory of several old time collectors a fairly reliable provience and history has been established. Some old photographs and records from a Michigan collection indicated that Leo Kane of Sturgis, Michigan originally collected it. The dates of this are not clear; however, the old records state it was found in Marshal County, Michigan. A well known Ohio collector took it to his state in the early 1950s. Reliable data from then on has not been established.

John Baldwin Collection, Angola, Indiana

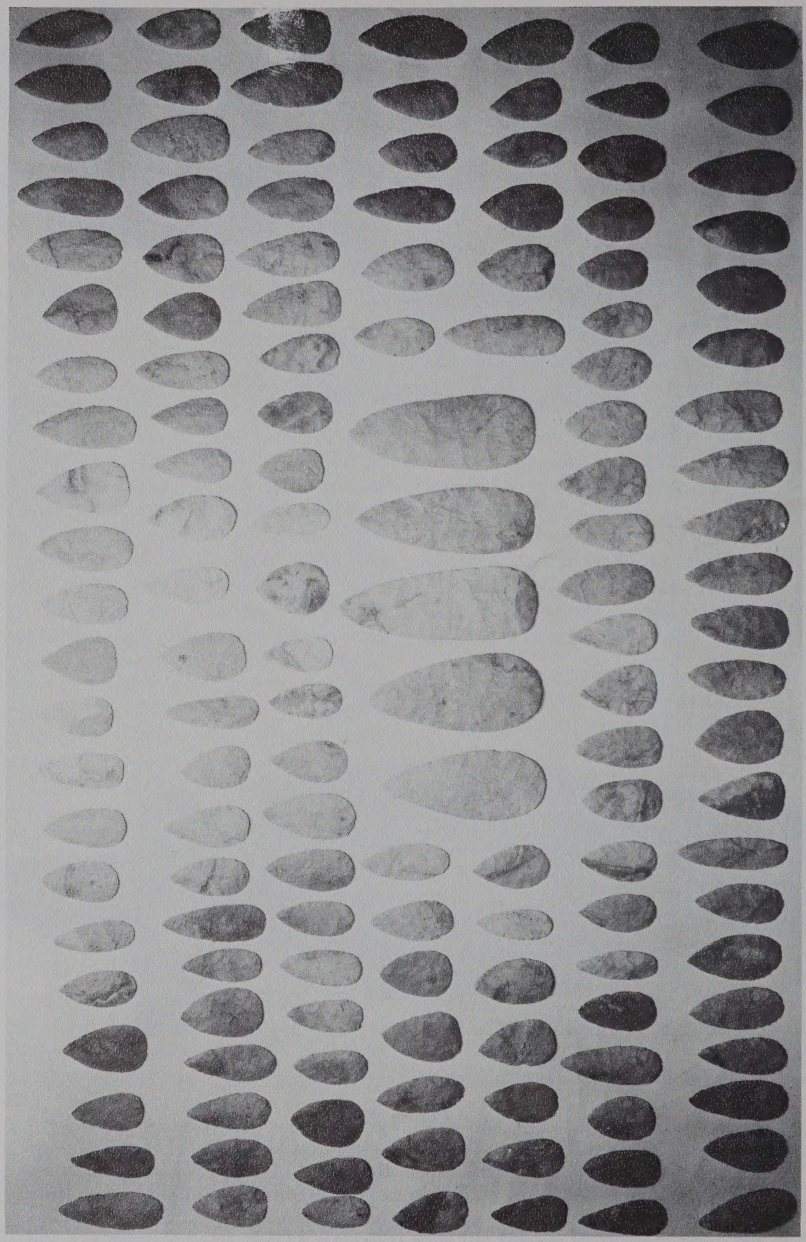

Figure 41

A cache of 145 Adena type blades. This photograph was taken many years ago. The blades were at that time in an old Michigan collection. They appear to be made of multi-colored Ohio Flint Ridge material. The longest blade measures over 9 inches long.

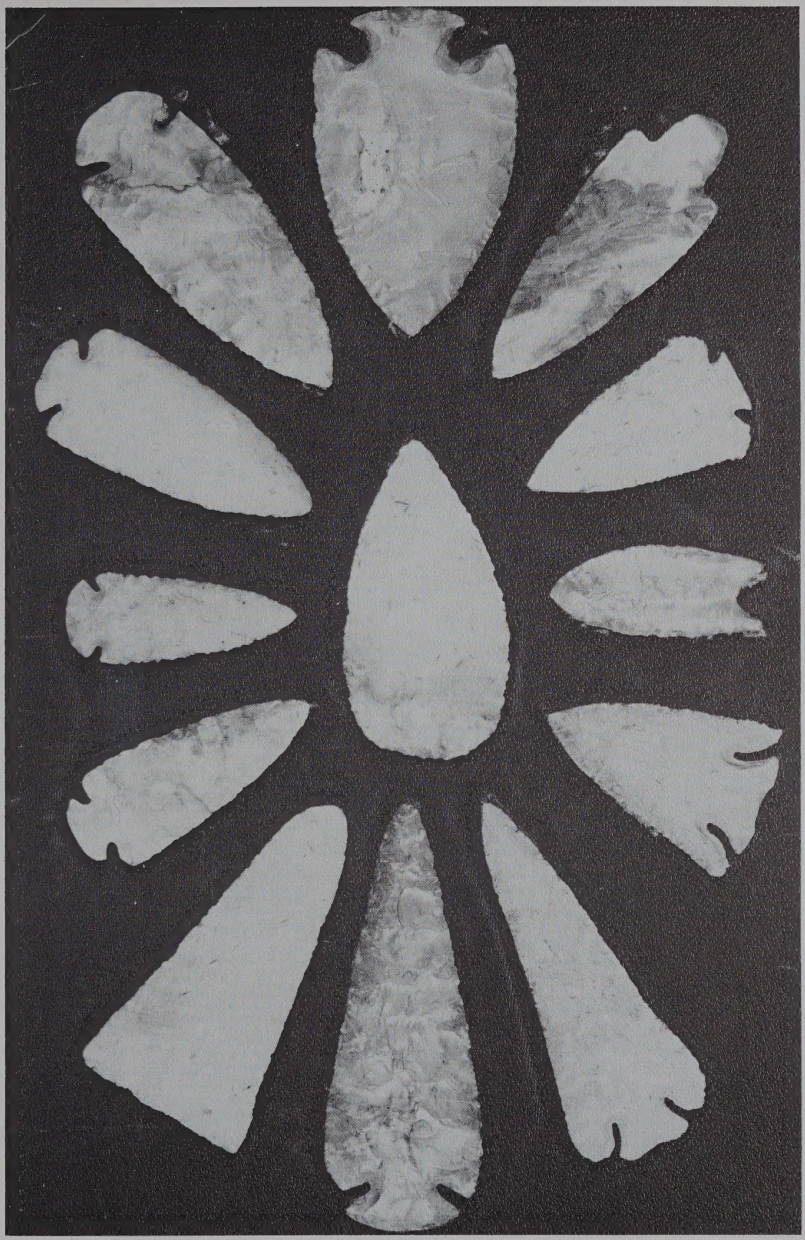

Figure 42

A group of Ohio Flint Ridge points, collected from 1974 through 1976. The longest point measures 6 inches in length.

John Baldwin Collection, Angola, Indiana

Figure 43

A very fine human effigy, gray colored Bell Plain ware pottery vessel. A personal find in 1971, in Pemiscot County, Missouri. Height: 7 inches. Diameter: 6 inches.

Roy Hathcock Collection, West Plains, Missouri

Figure 44

A large human, effigy type, pottery vessel. Has a buff colored finish with face painted red and white. Multi-perforated ears and has engraved design on chest. Height: 9½ inches. Diameter: 9 inches. Found in Pemiscot County, Missouri.

Roy Hathcock Collection, West Plains, Missouri

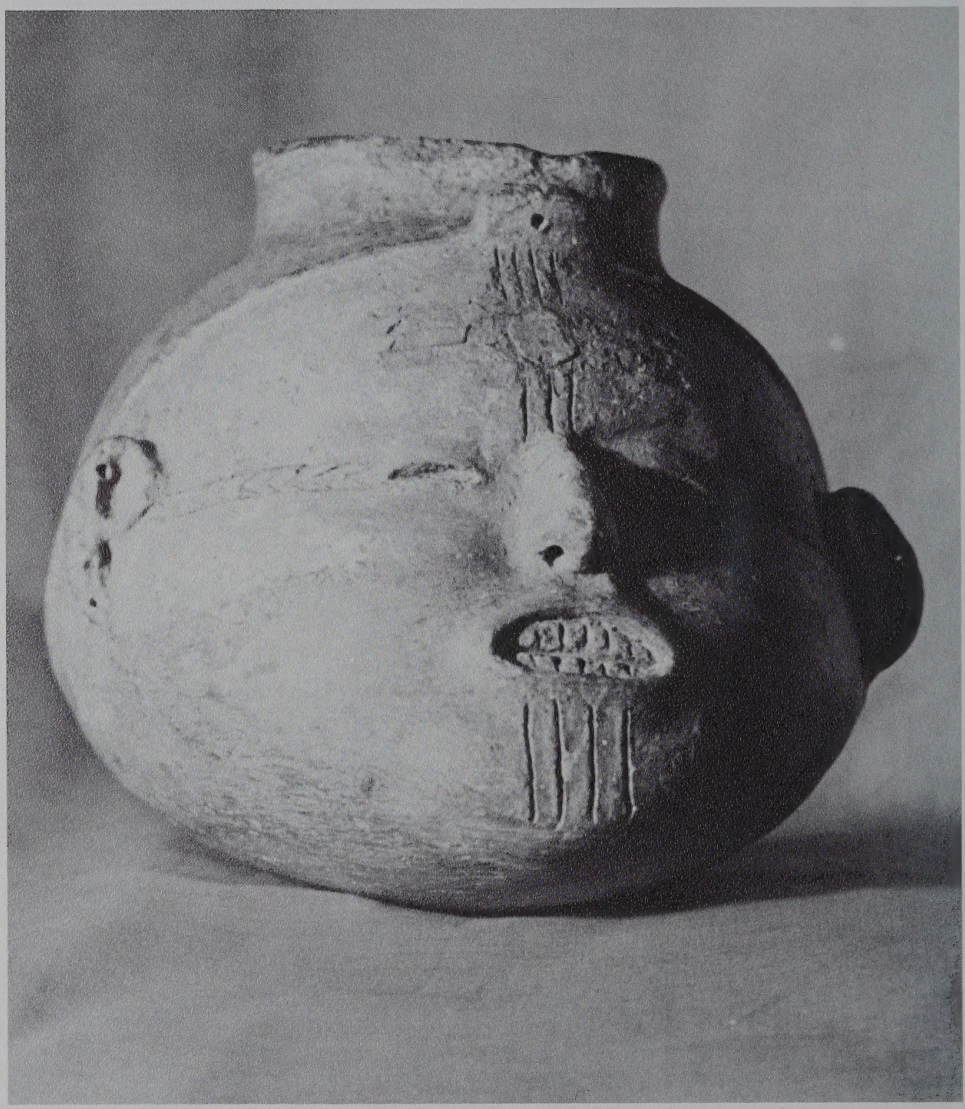

Figure 45

Another one of those highly prized human effigy pottery vessels. Painted Carson Red on buff. Ears perforated 4 times each. Height: 6½ inches. Diameter: 7½ inches. Found in Cross County, Arkansas.

Roy Hathcock Collection, West Plains, Missouri

Figure 46

A large, pottery ware, water bottle, of Quapaw origin. Distinctive features are 3 large concave dimples, each surrounded by three concentric rings that are engraved in the surface. Height: 10½ inches. Found in Lee County, Arkansas.

Roy Hathcock Collection, West Plains, Missouri

Figure 47

3 views of a Nodena culture, red and white colored pottery vessel. Prominent features include the weeping eye design modeled into the surface and dots of red and white adorning the forehead of each face. Height: 7¾ inches. Diameter: 7¼ inches. Found in Mississippi County, Arkansas.

Roy Hathcock Collection, West Plains, Missouri

Figure 48

A gem among gems. A notched hoe made of a glossy white, Union County, Illinois chert. Measures 6¾ inches high. Was found near Altenburg in Perry County, Missouri.

Ex Renno, Cheney and LaDassor Collections

PITTED STONES: AN ANALYSIS OF THEIR FUNCTIONS

William S. Fowler — Barrington, Rhode Island

These intriguing artifacts have been the subject of conjecture ever since they appeared as surface recoveries. But not until they were found on excavated sites has an inquiry into their uses been possible. Here, when observed in close association with evidence of a contributing nature, their identity began to emerge. Such occurrences have been the privilege of the writer, experienced in his work carried on at sites in Rhode Island, Massachusetts, and Connecticut. And, while limited in number, they are significant enough to make reference to them rewarding. This investigation seems worthwhile when consideration is given to the wide-spread ignorance that seems to exist as to how pitted stones were used in a primitive economy. Such uninformed knowledge was brought to the writer's attention when some years ago he was engaged by the Memorial Museum of Old Deerfield to analyze their collection of stone implements. This preliminary work preceded final case arrangement and exhibit of the artifacts in their Indian Room. Among a sizable display of important projectile points, knives and scrapers — including 2 Fluted points, one of which was made of white quartz — appeared an immense quantity of Pitted stones. At the time, research had not advanced far enough to reveal much about the identity of these rather ordinary looking objects, beyond the fact that they consisted merely of various sized cobbles with a pit pecked out on one face, sometimes on both facial sides. The question, frequently asked then, as to how they may have been used, could be answered only as a supposition, which eliminated them for display at the time as unimportant artifacts.

However, recent site excavations have done much to prove that such casual disregard of Pitted stones lacking tool-worked distinction was unfounded. These pit-pecked cobbles now appear to have served as useful tools with significant functions. As such, it would seem, they should deserve more than cursory notice, which accounts for this analysis. Included is somewhat detailed information of related evidence, together with carefully drawn illustrations of three distinctive types described in this paper (Fig. 49). They may not represent the only ones with specialized functions, as suggested by the evidence, but at least they seem to be identified by something more than random guesses. If there were uses made of Pitted stones other than those discussed in this report, associated informative evidence, it is hoped, will be forthcoming in support of them. For the time being at least, evidence as presented should suffice to place some of these stone artifacts in a new light, as necessary tools of aboriginal laborers.

Discussion

The first kind of Pitted stones to be described is perhaps the least understood. Illustrated specimens (Exhibits 1-5) are fairly representative of this class of tools. They have pecked-out pits on both facial sides of a medium sized cobble and are usually made of a coarse grained sandstone. Occasionally, there appears an adjoining pit as well on both faces (Exhibits 1, 2), as if to provide a choice of position for whatever use was made of them. Sometimes, not only both faces are pitted, but also both lateral edges as well, centrally located, (Exhibits 3, 5). One of the most significant traits to notice is the worn end, or ends of these stones. Showing on all five specimens — somewhat obscured as a result of illustrative limitations — are smoothly worn surfaces on both ends of the stone, with the greatest wear appearing usually on the larger end. This wear does not display a high finish as a result of

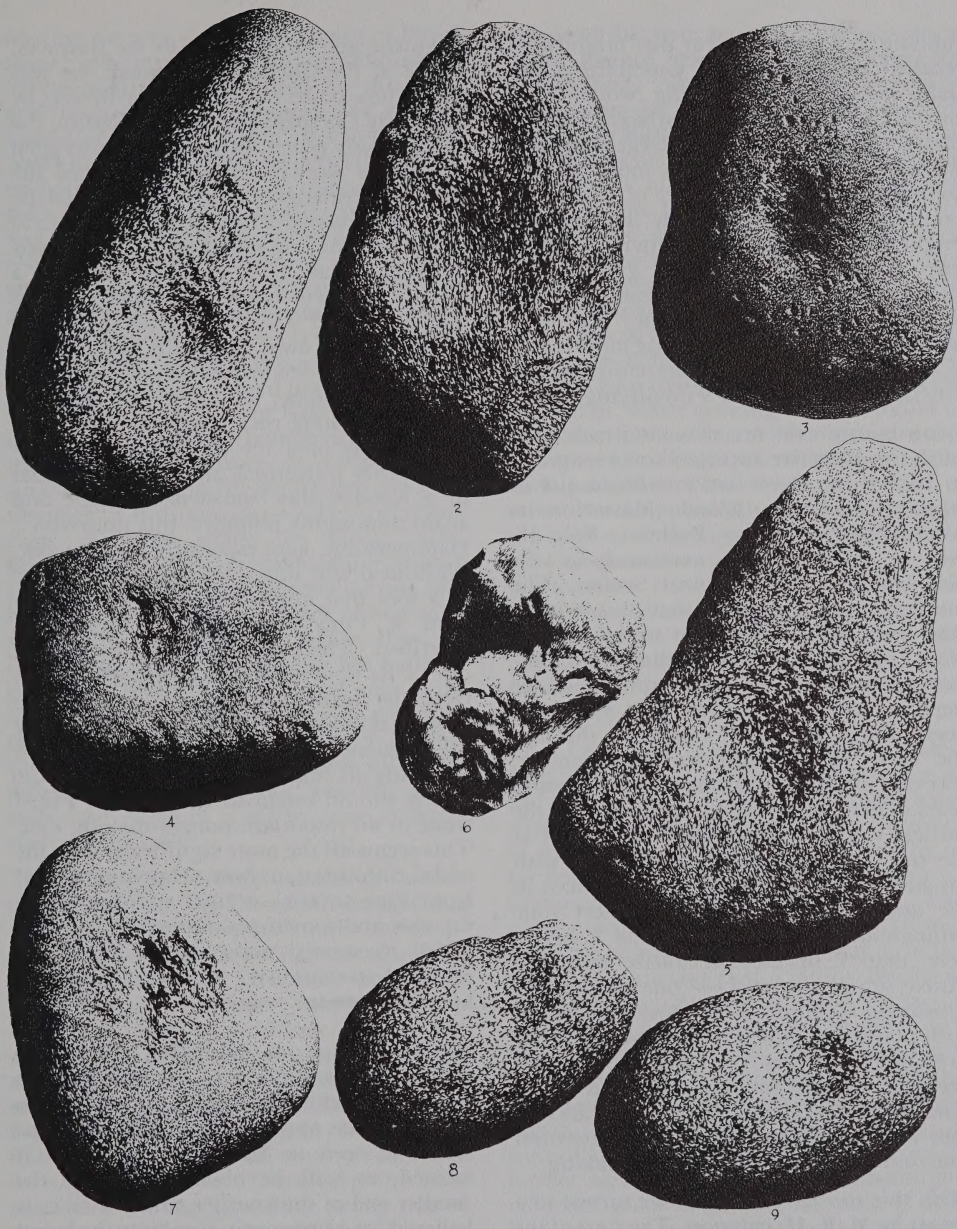

Figure 49

PITTED STONES. 1-5, Clay Kneaders — coarse sandstone cobbles, pitted both sides; 6, Hammerstone — white quartz, pitted both sides; 7-9, Nut-cracking Anvils — sandstone and granite, pitted one side only.

rubbing, but instead, wear that might have resulted from pounding something softer than stone. Stone chipping would have produced much rougher surfaces. Finally, these Pitted stones are rather large and bulky with weights of a pound or more. Giving consideration to the presence of wear from pounding, it seems to follow that the pits might have been made to provide a finger grip to enable a more secure grasp of the tool. Beyond this, what more can be said as to what kind of pounding they may have performed. For, until something more than a guess is used in suggesting the nature of their function, they will lack a qualifying name.

Contributing evidence of a kind to accomplish this objective appeared some years ago in 1955 at the Sweet-meadow Brook site in Apponaug, Rhode Island (Massachusetts Archaeological Society Bulletin, Vol. 18, No. 1, W.S. Fowler) excavated by the Narragansett Archaeological Society. The one feature that distinguished this excavation from all others, so far undertaken in New England, was recovery there of quantities of potsherds. These represented the remains of many broken pots from the beginning of ceramics, extending through the first three stages of development, covering a span of an estimated one thousand years. There was evidence to show that the earliest work of pottery-making existed at the site, and increased over the years, with the heaviest concentration being noticed in the upper two thirds of the pottery zone throughout ceramic Stages 2 and 3. It was here that 7 of the previously described Pitted stones occurred — one of them is illustrated, (Exhibit 1) in close association with pottery-making remains, including the fired end of a clay coil. Because of their presence in this ceramic zone and at no other level, the inference seems justified that they were used in performing some essential function connected with pottery-making.

With this thought in mind, we turned to a report by M. R. Harrington, *The Last of the Iroquois Potters,* published in 1909 by the University of the State of New York. Harrington spent some time among the Cherokee of North Carolina, a people with linguistic and cultural ties to the Iroquois. While at the Cherokee settlement, he was shown how pottery was made, step by step, by an elderly Cherokee potter, Iwi Katalsta, the last and only potter, except for another aged and feeble woman, who had retained the ancient knowledge of pottery-making. Of the many process stages involved, several seem to be the ones having relevance to the analysis of Pitted stones. First, clay was dug from a bed and molded into a cake some 14″ long that resembled a loaf of bread. This was dried and laid away for future use. Next, a part of the cake was broken off and pulverized on a hearthstone; in old times, Katalsta explained a long rock (probably not hand-tooled) was used for this purpose. When sufficiently pulverized, the clay was placed in a wooden tray, moistened a little and again thoroughly pounded, this time with a Hammerstone, kept especially for the work. Without doubt this reference points to use of a tool that might have been none other than a Pitted stone of the type just described. Therefore, in order to take it out of its nondescript category, we suggest that it be classified as a Clay kneader. There is little doubt that the process of kneading the moistened clay was an important step in removing all small lumps from the mixture, which should establish this type of Pitted stone as an important pottery-making tool. This seems all the more significant with the added information from Harrington that from time to time a little more water or dry clay and sometimes mineral temper was added as seemed necessary to obtain the required consistency in completing the kneading process.

Before closing this discussion concerning the Clay kneader, it is of interest to again refer to the additional small pit adjacent to the larger one, appearing on both faces of the stone, as seen in Exhibits 1 and 2. It is located, as will be observed, toward the smaller end of the kneader, and if used as is believed for a finger grip similar to the larger pit, would have enabled the potter to exert more impact on the larger end of the stone when used, which usually shows the most wear.

Moving on now onto another type of Pitted stone, attention is directed to Exhibit 6. White quartz has been used for this tool, and because of its hardness has resisted formation of well defined pecked-out pits. None the less they exist, imperfectly formed on both faces, as well as on opposite lateral sides. However, unlike the Clay kneader this tool has roughly worn rounded ends, as a result of continuous battering against hard substances such as stone. When compared to an ordinary quartz Hammerstone with worn, roughly rounded surfaces it is similar, except for the pitted finger grooves. Therefore, probably it is a specialized tool for performing certain kinds of stone flaking; might be referred to as a Pitted hammerstone. While the illustrated specimen is comparatively small — selected to fill the limited space on the page of illustrations — other specimens exist of hard stones in larger sizes, presumably used when performing heavier kinds of stone flaking. Whatever the size, this kind of a hammerstone is made of materials such as quartz, quartzite, felsite, flint, or other hard stones, and always has battered ends that display rough-surfaced wear. With these basic traits prominently in evidence, the Pitted hammerstone should not be confused with the Clay kneader with its totally different traits, including smooth, worn ends, and made of a softer stone material such as sandstone.

The third type of Pitted stones to be discussed (Exhibits 7-9) differ from the previous two types in that they have only one peck-out pit appearing on a single facial side of the stone. Their size is usually small, and they are made of ordinary cobbles of semi-hard stone, such as sandstone, granite and the like. The pit is of small proportions that may be evenly rounded as in Exhibits 8 and 9, or roughly formed as in Exhibit 7. In all instances the cobble chosen is relatively flat-faced, and shows no wear on any side or edge of the stone. Obviously, the only manual work that lifts these stones out of their natural state is the pecked pit on one face. Related evidence that strongly suggests how these stones were used appeared in the course of field work undertaken by the writer in 1948. Occupying the entire digging season of this year, he completed excavation of the Ragged Mountain steatite quarry for the Peabody Museum of Yale Univesity, reported in the Massachusetts Archaeological Society Bulletin, Vol. 32, Nos. 3 and 4, p. 9. This was an unusual stone bowl-making site located high on the side of Ragged Mountain in the Peoples State Forest of Connecticut. Actually it consisted of a rock shelter at the base of an 80 foot rise of cliffs, where formerly outcrops of steatite had occurred in and about the shelter. It was so situated as to form natural sleeping quarters under the cliffs for the quarrier's family, and space for living room in front, doubtless wattled in, while cooking hearths, found in place, lay just outside. As excavation of this living area proceeded, excitement reigned in anticipation of what might lie below to reveal the activities of its occupants. Hopes ran high as domestic and quarry stone tools were frequently encountered lying more or less together. Finally, at the bottom of 20″ of black occupational accumulation our efforts were rewarded. There, lying as when last used, was a relatively large stone plate with worked handle ends. And appearing beside it were three Pitted stones of the one pit type.

They were made of relatively small cobbles, with a fourth that had been tucked under an end of the plate to shore it up. Although the writer has previously referred to this recovery in some of his writings, it seems worthy of further mention, appearing as it does as important evidence in this analysis. The group setting of plate and Pitted stones when taken together suggests that at sometime in the distant past a family luncheon may have taken place at this spot; perhaps a mother and a child or two. The plate may have held meat portions, while the children were busy cracking hickory nuts on the Pitted stones. — derivation of hickory seems significant: Algonkian, Pawcohiccoro, a walnut kernel mush, one use of these nuts in former ages. And what helps substantiate reference made here to these nuts is that hickory trees, even today, abound all about the quarry site. Exhibits 8 and 9 are illustrations of 2 of the 4 Ragged Mountain Pitted stones taken out of context. If our analysis is correct, a stone like these with only a pit

on one face with no worn ends showing might rightfully be called a Nut-cracking anvil. Unfortunately, the Hammerstones that may have been used for cracking nuts were not discovered, although numerous specimens, small and large, were found nearby in other parts of the shelter.

In the past, single Pitted stones like this third type have frequently been referred to loosely as nut crackers, but without valid proof to justify the assertion. Now, however, with this pertinent Ragged Mountain evidence with its provocative implications, there appears ample reason to believe that these Pitted stones were in fact, what we have named Nut-cracking anvils. And further, we are told by naturalists that a hickory nut, when held in the correct position on an anvil, may be cracked so as to release the tightly impacted nut meat from the shell. A people, such as the ancient quarry workers, dependent upon such nuts for a food supply, would certainly have been fully conversant with the proper positioning of the nut when cracked for best results, for which the Pitted stone base might well have served as an assist.

This inquiry has attempted to analyze and present supporting evidence revealing three types of Pitted stones with appropriate names suggested for each. While their functions may have been put to wider use than those outlined in this paper, it seems probable that those mentioned may have been the principal ones. Although it is possible that other kinds of Pitted stones may exist that do not fall within any of the three types mentioned, our analyses dealing with these three have revealed related evidence that seems to provide tangible proof of their identity.

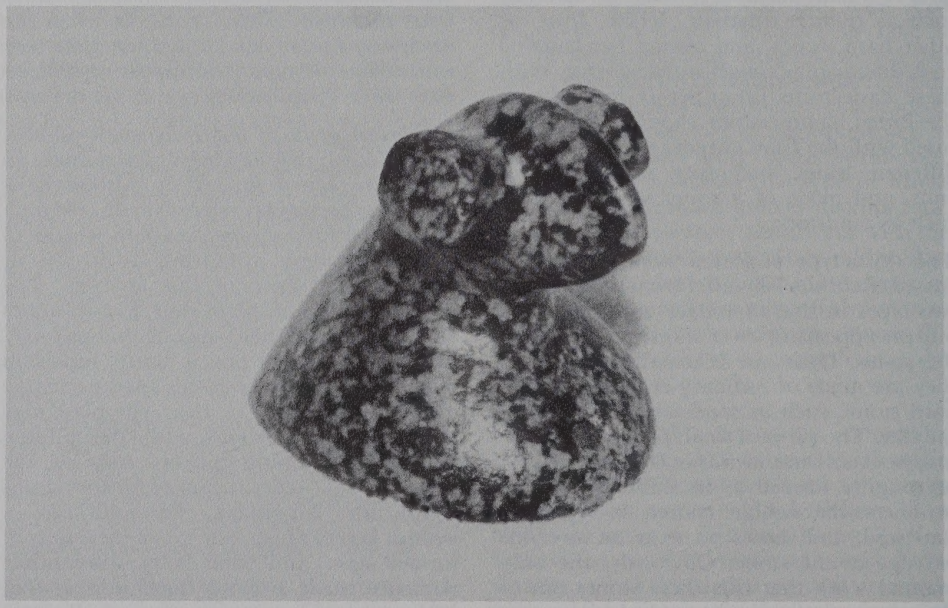

Figure 50

A super fine bust type birdstone. Made of black and yellow spotted granite. Found in Erie County, Pa. Collected by Joseph Ringeisen, Jr. in 1910.

Steve Fuller Collection, Stow, Ohio

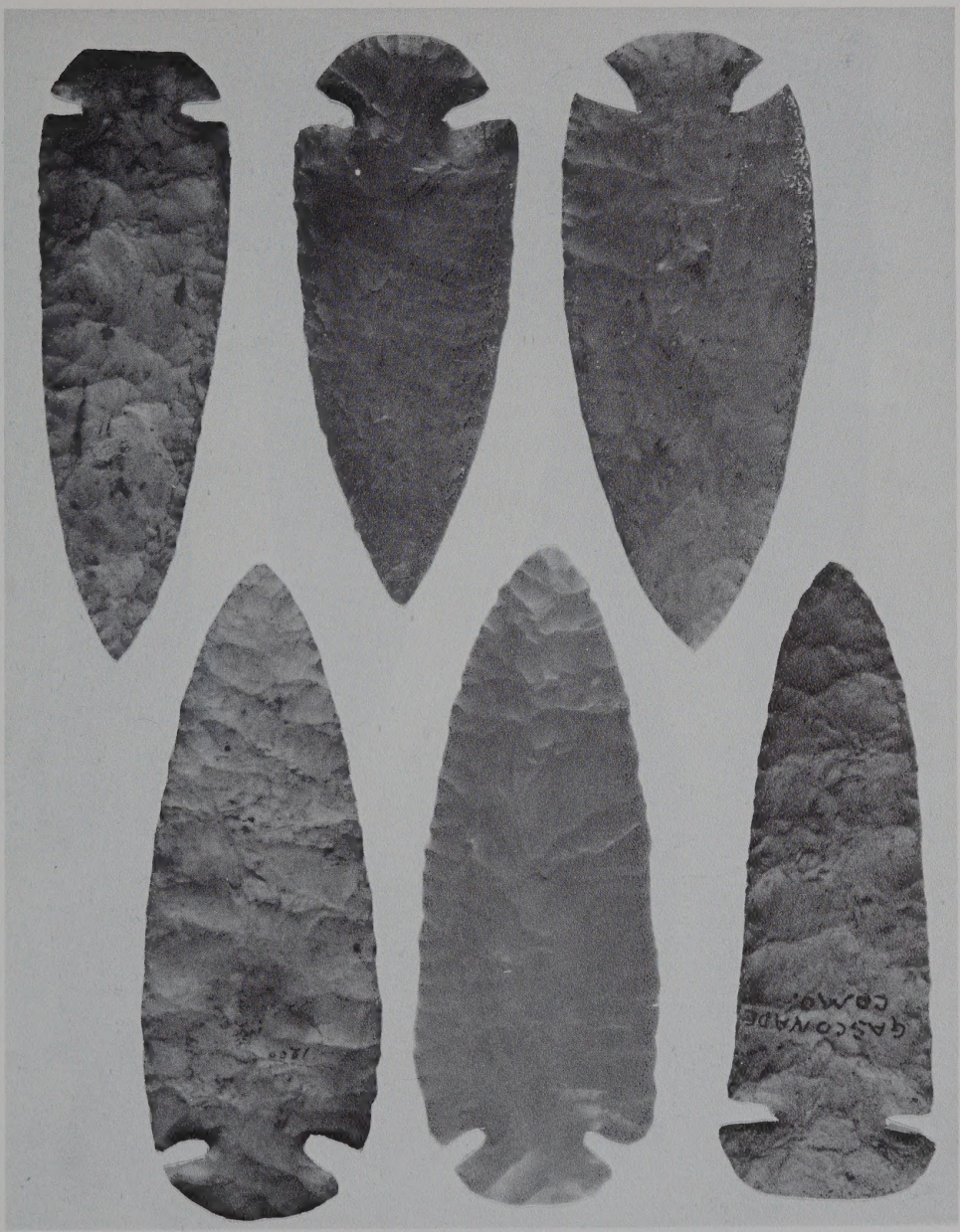

Figure 51

A group of very well made dovetail (St. Charles) type spearheads from southern Illinois counties. The longest specimen measures 5⅜ inches. One point from Missouri.

Guy Brothers Collection, Pinckneyville, Illinois

Figure 52

Four very well chipped spearheads from southern Illinois counties. The longest specimen measures 7¾ inches.

Guy Brothers Collection, Pinckneyville, Illinois

Figure 53

A Clovis type point. Measures 3½ inches long. Found in Perry County, Illinois by Ralph Ferrari. Blue to green colored.

Guy Brothers Collection, Pinckneyville, Illinois

Figure 54

Two artifacts from Illinois and one from Missouri, showing very fine workmanship. The longest measures 4½ inches long.

Guy Brothers Collection, Pinckneyville, Illinois

Figure 55

A fine three hole gorget made of a gray colored slate. Measures 5¼ by 2-4/5 inches. Found in Richland County, Ohio. Ex Dr. Meuser collection.

Gordon and Steve Hart Collection, Indianapolis and Bluffton, Indiana

Figure 56

Prehistoric pottery vessel from the state of Arizona. Black on white slip. Measures 6 by 6 inches.

Jack Laut Collection, Garden City, Michigan

DOUBLED BITTED BARBED AXES

John Baldwin — Angola, Indiana

One frequent comment about my Michigan rare axe article in the January issue is that the readers felt cheated that I didn't illustrate the two most rare examples. This information will of course be presented in more detail in my Michigan barbed axe book. However, since the response has been good I felt it important to share these facts in this follow up article.

The double bitted Michigan barbed axe is the rarest of the Michigan barbed form. I was able to locate only three examples that were authentic. They also were used for general axe functions as all three specimens had bit sharpening. The barbs are not as large as average. This axe seems to fall into the transitional type category because of the way the groove is shaped on all three axes. One bit was smaller indicating and showing more use than its larger twin.

Only seven round poll elongated bit, flared groove types have been found as of this writing. This type is my favorite although I still believe the small large barbed types to be the true classic Michigan barbed axes. The first noticeable feature of the type is its very round conical poll. The poll is long and well made reminding me of the wing of the non-grooved wing bannerstone. The barbs are not large and always soft with a rounding ridge running all around the axe. This produces a flared groove look. Again the width of the groove is large as seen on most barbed axes. The bits of these types differ from barbed axes in several ways. First they are always longer. They are round on the edges as opposed to a more squared appearance on regular barbed axes. The bits are long and straight sided as opposed to the normal angular bit. This group showed the least amount (almost none) of wear. Many broken barbed axes have been viewed in my study. Neither of these two rare types have turned up broken indicating their scarcity.

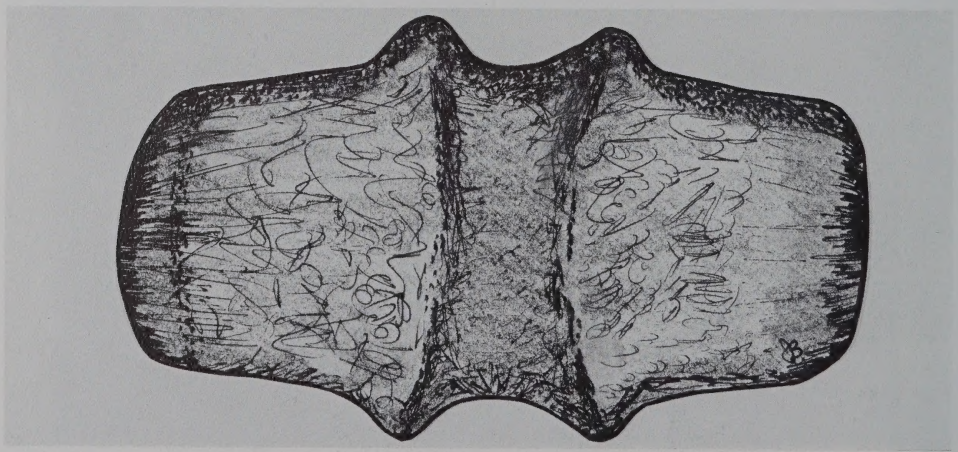

Figure 57

This drawing is a representative composite of the three double bitted Michigan barbed axes studied. They range in size from 7 to 9 inches long. They are all made from a dark colored granite and display deep original peck marks.

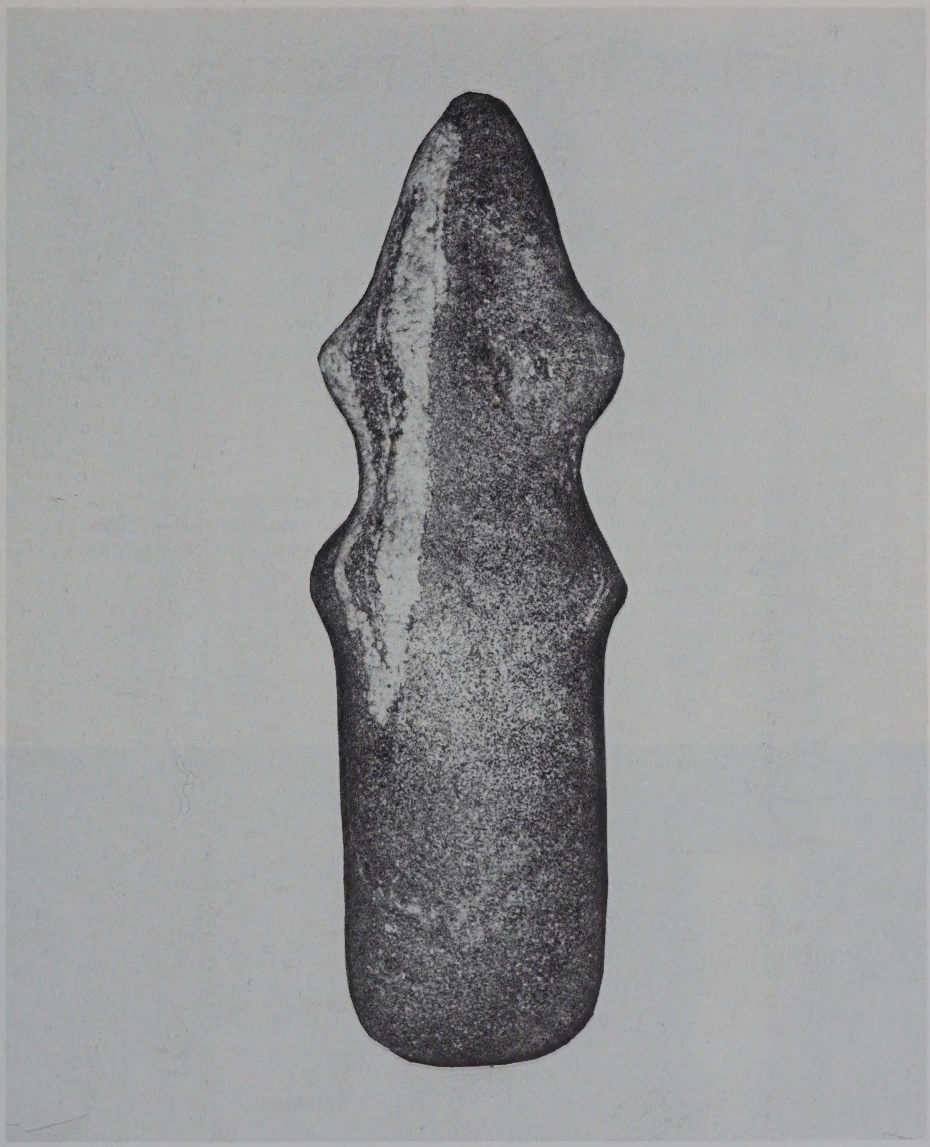

Figure 58

A vein and outcropping of this schistose material, that this round poll specimen was created from, runs through Macosta County, Michigan. This is on top of the Michigan barbed axe heart area. I've examined several other barbed axes and large pick type artifacts made from this attractive stone. Ex Boudeman, Townsend, Stevens, Dr. Young, Dr. Copeland, Munger Collections. This axe measures 9⅞ by 3⅜ inches.

John Baldwin Collection, Angola, Indiana

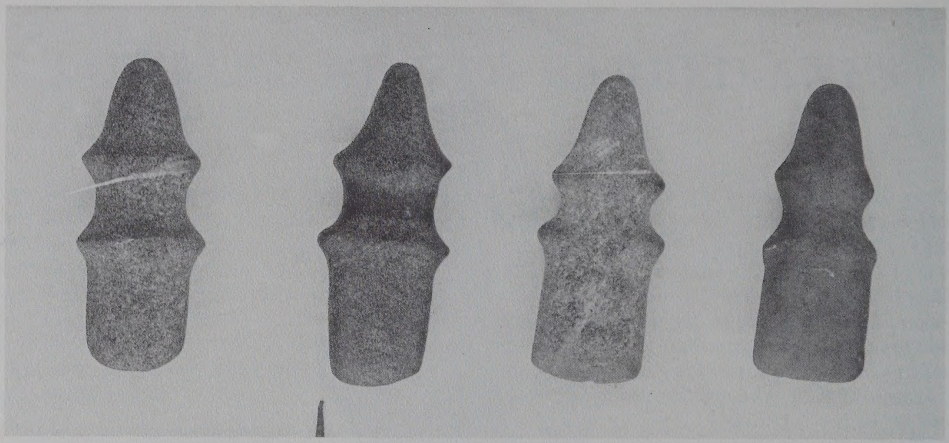

Figure 59

Four elongated, round poll, flared groove Michigan barbed axe types. These examples were in the old Hathaway collection of St. Johns, Michigan. This collection contained over 70 barbed axe types. These were collected from the heart of the axe area in Michigan many years ago.

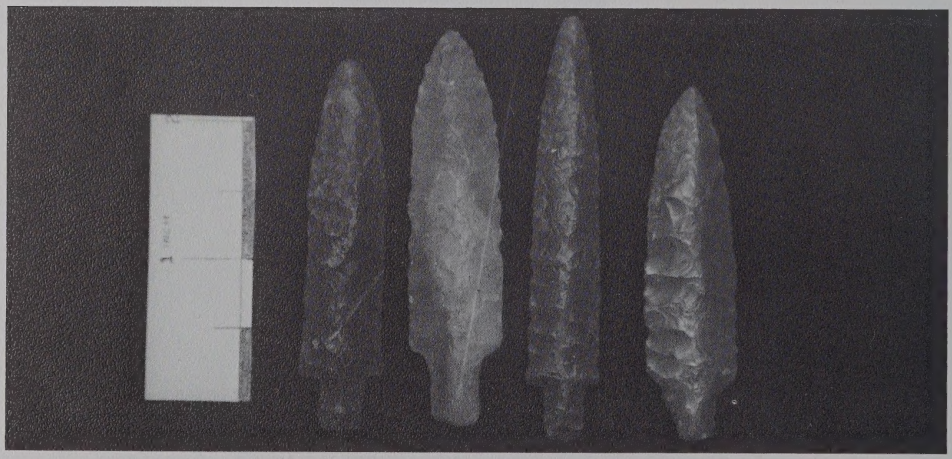

Figure 60

These artifacts are referred to as Bering Coast Eskimo flint bear points. Average 2 inches in length. Found in the state of Alaska.

Gale L. Stanton Collection, Centralia, Washington

Figure 61

A selection of outstanding drills from the states of Ohio, Illinois and Missouri. The longest measures 7⅛ inches.

Figure 62

An exceptionally large and beautifully colored discoidal. Made of carmel colored to honey colored quartz. Measures 7 inches in diameter. Found in the state of Tennessee.

Figure 63

A double cupped type discoidal. Made of white to gray colored Geode quartz. This is a very rare material and seldom used in Indian artifacts. Measures 5¼ inches in diameter. Found in Obion County, Tennessee.

COLLECTING ON THE NORTHERN PLAINS

Ray Franks — Minot A.F.B., North Dakota

It is rumored that an early explorer of part of the area now included within the state of North Dakota declared the area unfit for civilized habitation. With all of its climatic rigors, the region proved not only habitable, but productive agriculturally and rich in resources; a fact the early explorer might have discerned from the rich cultural variety of "uncivilized" inhabitants he encountered on the Northern Great Plains. It was with these earlier inhabitants that I was most interested upon arriving here in 1971.

Moving around in the service, my wife and I have encountered many different collecting environments, but none proved as initially frustrating as that of Northwestern North Dakota. The surface collecting season is roughly limited to May through September, and inhospitable days are not uncommon between these dates. Additionally, Spring is a race to get crops planted on cultivated land so that only a few weeks offer hunting opportunities on most fields. Unlike the Southwest, uncultivated areas are covered for the most part with vegetation. The collecting environment was only part of the initial frustration.

The artifacts themselves were disappointing to a collector accustomed to the rich paleo through woodland cultures of the Mississippi Valley. Fluted points and other paleo varieties are a rarity here as early migration paths only skirted North Dakota's extreme western areas. The beautiful remnants of Adena, Hopewell, and Mississippian cultures (which were already being added to collections when Custer rode out of Fort Abraham Lincoln near Bismarck) are virtually non-existent. Even the arrowpoints and blades of later communal bison hunters and early semi-agricultural peoples are often disappointing in quality of workmanship. Pottery and ground stone work seldom match the quality and quantity of other areas. In short, the situation required something I have encountered before in moving from area to area — adapting my collection to the best that is available — and once I made up my mind to adapt, I turned from frustration to delight at the rich and fascinating variety of artifacts which were available all the while.

Our collecting attention turned from the prehistoric to the antique-historic, and we quickly added such items as a copper Hudson Bay Company trade pot (circa 1780-1850), an 1863 Springfield cap and ball musket adorned with brass tackwork and carving, and late 19th- early 20th-century photos, photo post cards, and stereoptican slides picturing old warriors dressed in dance and battle regalia.

The photographs included with this article picture two prehistoric artifacts. Figure (64) is a large grooved maul of unusually good workmanship. It is six inches long, 14½ inches around its widest point and weighs nearly eight pounds. It was surface collected in September 1969 during a period of low water along the Deep Water Creek arm of Garrison Reservoir, McLean County, North Dakota. Figure (65) is another grooved maul fashioned from a naturally polished glacial pebble, and although its pecked groove is quite shallow, it is attractive. It is 5 and ¾ inches by 10 inches around its widest point. It was found many years ago near Wolseth, Ward County, North Dakota.

Figure 64

A grooved maul from McLean County, North Dakota. Described on page 76.
Ray Franks Collection, Minot, North Dakota

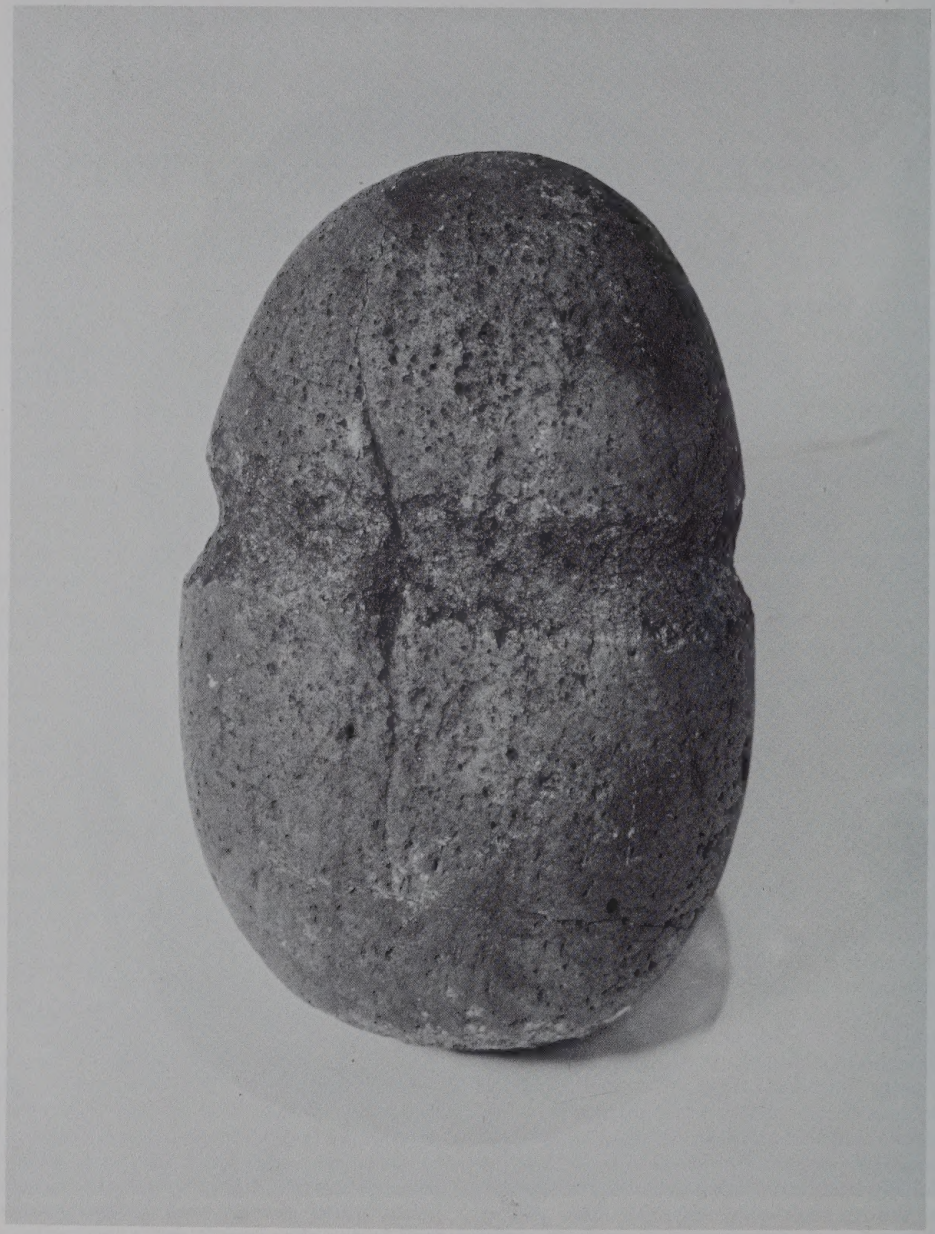

Figure 65
A grooved maul from Ward County, North Dakota. Described on page 76.
Ray Franks Collection, Minot, North Dakota

Figure 66

A spud or Spatulate type artifact. Made of hard dark-colored stone. Found in the state of Illinois.

Don Lewis Collection, Flora, Illinois

LINCOLN, ILLINOIS, MEETING

GENUINE INDIAN RELIC SOCIETY, INC.
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For publication in "The Red Skin" or for use in the authentication program.

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Do this before May 15, 1976

COLUMBUS, OHIO MEETING IN THE FALL

See July issue for date

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